

A NEW SPECIES OF *CHAETOPAPPA*  
(ASTERACEAE-ASTEREAE) FROM  
NORTH CENTRAL MEXICO

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Collections in the Chihuahuan Desert region of north central Mexico by Prof. M. C. Johnston and collaborators have revealed a number of novelties, one of the rarer being the new species described here.

*CHAETOPAPPA plomcensis* Turner, sp. nov. (Fig. 1).

Herbae perennes 9–13 cm altae. Laminae foliorum spatulatae supra glabrae. Ramuli inflorescentiae primarii secundariique tenues sinuati foliis paucis squamiformibus. Setae pappi ca. 25, 2–3 mm longae.

Small perennial, 9–13 cm tall. Leaves alternate, mostly basal, on tufted offshoots from a slender, ramifying root system; blades spatulate, sparsely pubescent beneath, glabrous above, the margins appearing ciliate. Flowering stems delicate, bearing 2–13 heads, in habit very similar to *C. parryi* Gray except that the primary (and secondary) branches are spindly or sinuate, these bearing fewer and much-reduced, scale-like, leaves. Technical characters of the head are also surprisingly like that species except that the cup-like crown of short scales is wholly replaced by a pappus of ca. 25 setae which are 2–3 mm long.

HOLOTYPE: MEXICO, Coahuila; La Cuesta del Plomo on the Músquiz-Boquillas highway (28°44' N., 102°31' W.), 1750–777 m, steep limestone slopes and canyons. *F. Chiang, T. Wendt & M. C. Johnston 9218b*. 14 Sept. 1972 (TEX; known only from the holotype which comprises 5 plants; each of these has the characteristic leaves and pappus).

At first glance the collections concerned would appear to be depauperate forms of the fairly widespread *Chaetopappa parryi*. However, the pappus is strikingly different and, combined with habit and leaf differences, the taxon seems worthy of recognition. It is apparently a local, bluff-inhabiting, endemic, much like *C. hersheyi* Blake, which is known only from the Guadalupe Mountains of western Texas. In Shinners' (1946) revision of the genus, *C. plomoensis* would key to *C. parryi*, but the latter has strongly erect, quite leafy, flowering branches, leaves which are pubescent on both surfaces and, of course, a small, squamellate, crown-like pappus, the latter being consistent in the numerous specimens examined, both at the University of Texas (TEX) and elsewhere (MO, US).

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REFERENCES

SHINNERS, L. H. 1946. Revision of the genus *Chaetopappa* DC. *Wrightia* 1: 63–81.

*SIDA* 7(1): 22–23, 1977.



Fig. 1. Habit sketch of a specimen from the holotype of *Chaetopappa plomoensis*. xl.